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AND PROCEEDINGS BEFORE  
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July 19, 2001

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Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Appl. No. 09/613,903; Filed: July 11, 2000  
For: **Nucleic Acid Ladders**  
Inventor: Heather J. JORDAN  
Our Ref: 0942.4450001/RWE/AGL  
Art Unit: 1631

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Status Inquiry Letter; and
2. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Commissioner for Patents

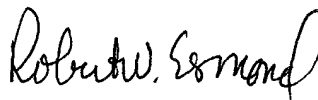
July 19, 2001

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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Robert W. Esmond  
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RWE/AGL/jk

Enclosures

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